

## Introduction to Revelation

The Apostle John, the "beloved" of Jesus, authored the book of Revelation about A.D. 95, 64 years after Christ's death. While he was a prisoner on the island of Patmos, a prison colony in the Aegean Sea off the coast of Greece, God gave him the visions recorded in the book of Revelation. John was about 85 years old, and the last surviving apostle.

At this time most of the people who were witnesses to Jesus' life and ministry here on earth were in their graves. In the Roman Empire Christianity had spread and flourished, but now worship of the Emperor as a god was being enforced more stringently and the church was enduring some of the fiercest persecution it had yet known.

The word "Revelation," or "apocalypse," means an unveiling of the future. Revelation reveals the issues and events involved in the ongoing conflict between God and Satan. In another sense, it is a revelation of Jesus Christ, portraying Him as the Lamb who died to take away sin, as the High Priest and Minister in the great heavenly sanctuary, as the Supreme Judge in the final judgment, and as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords reigning over the universal paradise restored. Revelation continues the themes found in Daniel; both books present views of prophetic panoramas that sweep from the prophet's time to

Ch. 1 Introduction

**The Great Controversy in Progress** – Four parallel views of history from New Testament times to end times.

Ch. 1-3 **The 7 Churches** – The scattered church receives counsel.

Ch. 4-8 **The 7 Seals** – Christ shields His afflicted people.

Ch. 8-11 **The 7 Trumpets** – The world is warned of severe judgments.

Ch. 12-14 **The Woman in White** – The pure and faithful church persecuted.

### The Mirrorlike Organization of the Book of Revelation

#### The Great Controversy in Progress Historical Half of Revelation

##### 7 CHURCHES (1:10 to 3:22)

*Christ Counsels His Church, at War, Scattered in Many Cities*

Christ walks among seven lamps. 2:1

Tree of life. 2:7

Open door. 3:8

Christ sits on His Father's throne. 3:21

New Jerusalem comes down from heaven. 3:12

I am coming soon. 3:11

##### 7 SEALS (4:1 to 8:1)

*Christ Shields His Afflicted People*

Heaven opened. 4:1

Rider on white horse followed by riders on colored horses. 6:2-8

Souls of martyrs, under altar, ask for judgment. 6:9,10

White Robes. 6:11; 7:9-14

Kings, generals, etc., ask to be killed. 6:15,16

##### 7 TRUMPETS (8:2 to 11:18)

*Severe Judgments Warn the World*

1. Earth. 8:7

2. Sea. 8:8,9

3. Rivers and fountains. 8:10, 11

4. Sun, moon, stars. 8:12

5. Darkness, bottomless pit, locusts. 9:1-11

6. River Euphrates. 9:13-21

7. Loud voices: The kingdom is Christ's! 11:15-18

##### GREAT CONTROVERSY (11:19 to 14:20)

*Trials of the True Mother & Her Children*

True mother, dressed in white. 12:1,2

Her children keep the commandments. 12:17

Woman in wilderness. 12:14

Beast with 7 heads, 10 horns. 12:3; 13:1

Babylon is Fallen! 14:8

Testimony of Jesus. 12:17